

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Advisory Action dated July 6, 2004 issued by the Examiner in response to the Amendment After Final Rejection filed on June 21, 2004. As stated in the Advisory Action, claims at 1-7 and 9-14 are allowed and claims 15 and 18 are rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 15 and 18 have been canceled to place the application in condition for allowance.

In view of this Amendment, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner indicates in the Advisory Action that he still awaits translations of the Japanese documents. As soon as Applicants' representatives receive the translation of JP 2002-529360, it will be filed with the USPTO immediately thereafter. The English translation of this reference is a Canadian counterpart application and there is no U.S. counterpart.

It is believed that JP 2002-529360 is the only Japanese reference that remains outstanding. Of the Japanese references, an English translation of which was required by the Office Action of November 7, 2003, an English translation of JP 49-42600 and JP 50-127900 was already submitted to the USPTO and Akimoto and JP 50-127900 are apparently the same reference (See European Search Report).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and/or §103

Claims 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Kimmel et al. Claims 15 and 18 are canceled and therefore the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over JP '900. Claims 15 and 18 are canceled and therefore the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are allowed. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims in light of the above remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Dated: July 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Enclosure(s): Petition for Extension of Time (one month)

DC163879

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 180013 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.